



*Always Ready
Always There*

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Unmanned aerial vehicles provide new tools for reconnaissance

By Staff Sgt. Scott Johnson,
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The Raven RQ11B is a combat multiplier for maneuver units. It provides the battlefield commander with much-needed, real-time intelligence. Since the initial fielding of the RQ-11A Raven Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (SUAV) in 2003, a great deal of experience (more than 30,000 flight hours) has been obtained operating the system, which reduces risk to the soldier by providing a beyond-line-of-sight view of the battlefield.

The Raven B SUAS provides operational capability in remote reconnaissance and surveillance, force protection, convoy security, target acquisition and battle damage assessment.

The air and ground components of the Raven system are lightweight and easily configured for rucksack transport. The Raven B air vehicle is battery powered and has low visual, acoustic, and thermal signatures.



Staff Sgt. Sean Farina practices his launch technique at the Orchard Combat Training Center. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Garey

The 1-204th RTI (AR) has embraced the challenge of the changing Army head-on by incorporating changes in equipment, doctrine, and tactics into their instructional delivery.

Our commanders foresaw the need and took on the mission for Raven training as part of this evolution. The RTI has received new equipment fielding of the newest tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and HMMWV's as a part of this evolution. This new course enhances the mission of the 1-204th RTI (AR) by training basic operators in the assembly,

operation and maintenance of the Raven B SUAVs.

As the role of this new asset continues to evolve, the 1-204th RTI (AR) is here to train soldiers from around the nation to face the ever-changing battlefield with the most modern equipment available.

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